



NEWS RELEASE

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Men Convicted of Murder in Marijuana Robbery Case

A jury today found two men guilty of killing a marijuana courier and they were immediately sentenced to life in state prison without the possibility of parole, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Rachel Hardiman said the jury convicted Charles Mackbee, 44, and Kenneth Johnson, 38, of first-degree murder. Jurors also found true a special allegation that the defendants used a revolver during the killing. A special circumstance that the men committed the murder in the commission of a robbery also was found to be true.

Furthermore, the felony complaint alleged that Mackbee was convicted of possession of a firearm by a felon in 1995, forgery in 2002, two counts of theft and unlawful taking or driving of a vehicle in 2002, and embezzlement in 2002. Johnson was convicted of assault by means likely to produce great bodily injury in 2009.

A third man who participated in the murder, Marcel Mackabee, 31, was convicted in a separate case on July 19, 2013. Mackabee, Charles Mackbee's cousin, also was sentenced to life in state prison without the possibility of parole.

Hardiman said on the night of March 24, 2011, Phillip Victor Williamson, 29, was discovered in a Long Beach alley with a gunshot wound to the back of the head. The victim was taken to a hospital, where he died the next day.

Williamson, a marijuana courier, was lured by the defendants from his West Los Angeles home under the guise of a marijuana purchase, the prosecutor said. Once Mackbee, Johnson and Mackabee met with the victim, they robbed him of 10 lbs. of marijuana. After the theft, it's believed they shot and dumped Williamson in the alley. Afterward, Mackabee went to the victim's home and stole at least \$150,000 in cash.

During the murder investigation, detectives were able to link the three defendants to the crime through phone records and witness interviews. Mackabee was arrested on July 30, 2011. Mackbee and Johnson were apprehended on March 1, 2012.

The case was investigated by the Long Beach Police Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.